



PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Elkhart County

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

17746-E County Road 34

Goshen, IN 46528-6898



The Michiana

Broadcaster

"Helping Each Other Grow!"

Michiana Master Gardeners Association

February 2009

Features This Issue:

Index	1
Calendar / A Look Ahead	2
From the Presidents Desk	3-4
Februarys Program INFO	4
Garden Tour 2009	5-7
Bits & Pieces 2009 State Conference	8
Quilt Gardens submitted by Sonya Nash	9-12
MG Bio Ericka Soumare	13-14
Spring Annual Meeting 2009	15-16
January MG meeting minutes	17-18
MG Recipe Box	19-21
From the Editors Desk	22

CALENDAR

February

A Look Ahead

Feb 24	7pm	"The Netherlands: Land of Water, Windmills & Wonder" by Marilyn Horvath NOTE: Meeting will be held at the Home & Family Arts Bldg.
March 14		Saturday, Public Seminar & Annual Meeting
April 28	7pm	"The world of Bonsai" by Cheryl Owens
May 26	7pm	"Dahlias" by Dahlia society / Cami Waggoner
June 30	7pm	"Invasives" by Rita Henehan
July 13	6pm	Fair setup & pizza party (volunteer hours)
Aug 25	6:30pm	Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner, Reservations required. Email bakerds@comcast.net
Sept 10 -12		Indiana State Master Gardener Conference; First Baptist Church CR 17 Bristol IN
Sept 29	7pm	"An evening of Master Gardener fun"
Oct 27	7pm	"Garden/Nature Photography" TBA
Nov 17	6:30pm	"Thanks for giving carry-in & food drive" NOTE: NEW DATE
Dec		NO MEETING, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Note From The Presidents Desk



Golly, where did January go? I know the intellectuals say that the older you get the faster the time seems to fly, but it seems just last week I was planning a quiet New Years Eve with Marilyn and here Half of February has been used up. Oh well, what can I expect being over three quarters of a century old? I suspect even you youngsters find time somehow slips away before you realize it, so I want to inform you that there are only 48 days until the traditional day, Good Friday, to plant peas and early potatoes. Of course if you choose to use the Almanac's recommended dates for planting potatoes, May 1st, you have 78 days to get ready. It will come quickly.

I am reminded that there are some excellent opportunities to fulfill your obligation for volunteer hours to keep your Master Gardener Certification current. Alys Kidder needs Master Gardeners to present a number of seminars at Lowe's on County Road Six starting during the month of March. I encourage you to participate in this wonderful opportunity to educate the people of the community in gardening subjects. You can contact Alys at 848-5153. The MMGA Speakers' Bureau needs people to present requested Gardening Programs for groups and organizations. Some of these are in the day time and others during the evening hours. All these presentations can be presented by one or for those who rather work with a friend two persons. Those interested in the Speakers' Bureau contact Norma Jean Rombke at 862-4169.

Educational hours are very easy to get but it is important to attend the educational presentations as they present themselves. Attending the monthly Membership Meetings where speakers are invited credits you two educational hours each time. The new class members are going to start their spring seminars, which again credits you with two educational hours for each one you attend.

The Annual Spring Seminar and Annual MMGA Dinner Meeting is a wonderful opportunity to get educational hours. The MMGA will be having seminars at AG Hall during the annual Elkhart County/ 4-H Fair, a great place to rest, cool off, and get educated all at once. Plan to attend the Indiana Master Gardeners' State Convention in the fall. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear noted speakers present valuable gardening information, actually a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I'm getting long and Alys is ready to go to print. I am just so impressed with the MMGA Members and all the opportunities they provide to learn more and the opportunities they provide to share what we have learned.



February's Program

Just to remind everyone that the MMGA monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the HOME & FINE ARTS BUILDING. You will note the change from AgHall as leadership training for 4H is being held there. The program for the evening will be by our own Marilyn Horvath and will be titled The Netherlands: Land of Water, Windmills & Wonders. Marilyn traveled to the Netherlands last year with a group from Fernwood and is eager to show us some of the beauty she saw there.

Judy Baker, Program Chair

Garden Tour 2009

January 2009

Volunteer Opportunities

The Michiana Master Gardeners are making plans for Garden Tour 2009 scheduled for Saturday July 11, 2009, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can be part of the exciting community event by volunteering. There are several ways to volunteer starting now through the day of the event.

Tour Volunteers

We will need several volunteers to be stationed at the garden sites. This can be an all day shift or a 4 hour shift. At the garden site you would mark off ticket books, keep track of the number of visitors and help the homeowner in answering questions from the public.

Also, volunteers are needed in the morning at the hospitality center until approx 3:00 p.m. helping with plant sales, boutique merchandise and then clean up.

In addition, there are opportunities available on Friday July 10 setting up at the hospitality center which will be located at a Middlebury school.

Flexibility is greatly appreciated in the above.

Donating Plants/Container Gardens

The plant sale is one of the most popular attractions at the hospitality center. We need you donated perennials, annual, baskets, containers or whatever your creativity and generosity allows.. You can save the containers from you spring plantings to put these in. The plants **MUST** be tagged with plant identification. Your plants should be dropped off at the hospitality center on Friday July 10 in the a.m.

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies

Cookies and punch are served at the hospitality center. 2 dozen cookies per person are needed to have enough for the morning.

Continued next page.....



Plant Identification Committee

Volunteers visit the garden sites a few weeks before the tour to identify and label the plants. If you are good at identifying plants, flowers, shrubs, etc. or if you want an opportunity to sharpen your skills, this is committee for you.

The Garden Tour is a great opportunity to get **many** hours to help fulfill your Master Gardener requirements. Below is contact information for those that can answer you questions.

Garden Tour 2009 chair: Liz Hess 825-4855
ehss@egh.org

Co-chair: Gwen Ferland 264-4356 eferland11@verizon.net

Volunteer comm.. chair: Linda Sinon 293-6172 lison@maplenet.net

Volunteer co-chair: Rhonda Loucks 862-4294 rhonway@fourway.net

Plant ID chair: Marilyn Horvath 522-6889
mrlnifly@aol.com

Submitted by Linda Sinon

2009 State Conference Bits and Pieces

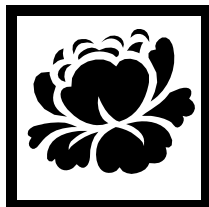
Rhonda is beginning to receive reservations! You may pay as soon as you like.

Corporate sponsorships are also starting to come in now.

The Vendor's Committee has reservations for several vendors. They are hard at work on many others too.

If you know anyone who might want to advertise in the program (\$35 for 1/4 page; \$60 for 1/2 page; and \$125 for full page) please email Heidi Zavatsky Hkz1430@aol.com. We also have several ads in addition to the sponsorships.

Committees are ramping up now that September is getting closer. Please don't be bashful to volunteer. We will introduce all the committee chairs at the MMGA meeting on February 24th. All volunteers are very important to hosting a successful Conference!



TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT QUILT GARDENS!

By Sonya Nash '08

Wintery winds may still be gusting, but all of us working on the 2009 Quilt Gardens Tour are excitedly thinking flowers and summer! And there's a lot to be excited about. Imagine a colorful patchwork of 16 large-scale, quilt themed gardens planted with 80,000 plus annuals, blooming in seven communities throughout Northern Indiana's Amish County—viewable free of charge. And it all begins May 25 and continues until October 1!

All the patterns for the 2009 Quilt Gardens Tour are set. Some are traditional, some contemporary, all are different, and all are spectacular. Here's a rundown of the official garden sites and the beautiful quilt patterns you'll see interpreted in "living color".

Ruthmere/Elkhart – Flower Basket

City Center Park/Elkhart – A.C.E. Garden

Linton's Enchanted Gardens/Elkhart – Breezy Days

American Countryside Farmers Market/Elkhart – Whirling Star

KOA Campground/Middlebury – Step of Faith

Krider Gardens/Middlebury – Maple Leaf

Greencroft/Middlebury – Barn Raising



(Photo supplied: Elkhart County Fairgrounds Quilt Garden)



(Photo supplied: Elkhart Riverwalk)

Continued next page....

Das Dutchman Essenhaus/Middlebury – Center Diamond

Farmstead Inn/Shipshewana – Shoofly Quilt

Menno-Hof/Shipshewana – Dove at the Window

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds/Goshen – “Harts” of the Elkhart County 4-H Fair

Old Bag Factory/Goshen – Birds Eye View

Meadow Brook Farm/Goshen – Grandmother’s Fan (interpreted with crops)

McCormick Creek Golf Course/Nappanee – Recovery

Amish Acres/Nappanee – LeMoyne Star

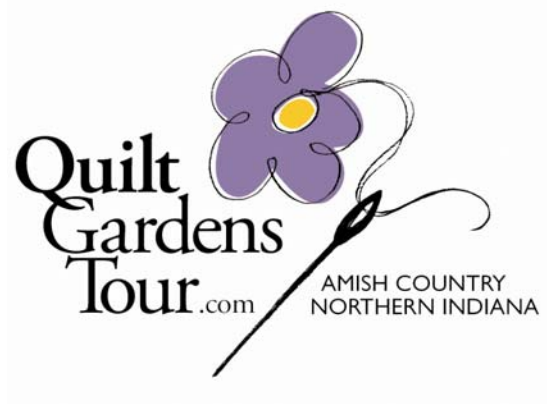
Downtown Wakarusa – Stone Mason’s Puzzle

Of course, you can see all the patterns, download maps, view photos and find much more about the 2009 Quilt Gardens Tour□ simply by logging on to **QuiltGardensTour.com**. Or if you have questions just call me at 800.377.3579.

Sonya Nash is the Travel Trade Marketing Manager for the Elkhart County, IN Convention & Visitors Bureau and Project Manager for the Quilt Gardens Tour□. She’s a recent graduate of the Elkhart County Master Gardeners Class of ‘08.



(Photo supplied: Das Dutchman Essenhaus Middlebury)



MASTER GARDENER BIO

Ericka Soumare



Ericka Soumare is our new Extension Educator. She received her Master's Degree in July of 2008 from Alabama A & M in Agri-Business.

Ericka is married to Mohamed. They met while both were students at Florida A & M. While Ericka was born and reared in Tampa (her parents still live in the same house they had when she was born), Mohamed is from Mali, Africa. They have a four-year old son, Ousmane, who attends day care and loves soccer.

Mohamed is finishing his PhD in entomology.

While Ericka says she has never been a gardener, she has worked with farmers before. As soon as they buy a house she indicated she dreams of planting flowers and vegetables. Right now she enjoys reading, but says most of her "spare" time is spent on family activities, with an active four-year old.

Ericka says the snow has been a new experience—especially since she and Mohamed spent Christmas in Mali, where her mother-in-law complained about the cold when it was 65 degrees! Ericka said this was her first visit to Africa. She was impressed with the beauty of the country and amazed by some of the houses and palaces that are still lived in. She said in Mali the rich and poor all live mingled together. They all get along well. It took two days to fly to Mali, due to all the plane changes and connections.

Ericka is looking forward to her teaching assignments and is happy to be in Elkhart.

She has enjoyed meeting and getting to know Master Gardeners and says she is anxious to learn more about our programs and services so that she can be a resource person for us. Stop by and introduce yourself!

Submitted by Mary Davis



Spring annual meeting 2009

The spring annual meeting will be on Saturday, March 14, at Winding Waters Brethren Church, 420 C.R. 4 west, Elkhart, 1:30-4:00pm.

You will want to get your tickets before the day of the seminar for \$10.00 because the price on the day of the seminar will be \$12.00.

The tickets may be purchased at the Extension Office in Goshen (or you may send payment to the Extension Office and pick up your tickets the day of the seminar at the door), at the regular meeting in February or at any of the sites in the county. The sites where tickets are available are: Fred's Flowers, Varns & Hoover, Ginger Valley, Sautter's Greenhouses, Ron Martin Seed, Martin's Pet & Garden, Kruse Farm Supply, McIntosh Garden Center and Linton's Enchanted Gardens.

The Speaker for the day is Dr. Tom Turpin, professor of Entomology at Purdue. He discovered how to combine his interests in biology and agriculture by working with insects. Named Professor of the year in 1995, Turpin is co-founder of the Bug Bowl, a very popular part of Purdue's Spring Fest, drawing 30,000 spectators to events such as cricket spitting contests and cockroach racing at Roach Hill Downs. Deadline for registrations is March 2. If you have any questions contact Kathleen Cripe at klcripe@bnin.net or call 574-831-4442.

His appearance in class dressed as a beekeeper or his serving Caterpillar Crunch and Chocolate Chirpy Chip Cookies illustrated the fact that only 5% of insects can be categorized as pests. Come find out who those "bad bugs" are.

The Schedule for the day is:

12:00-1:30 vendors open

1:30-2:30 session on Good bugs, Bad bugs

2:30-3:00 break, vendors open

3:00- 4:00 session continues on Good bugs, Bad bugs

4:00-5:30 vendors open

5:30-6:00 social time

6:00-7:00 dinner

7:00-7:30 awards

7:30-8:30 Dr Turpin with an entertaining talk on The New Good Old Days (a different subject than in the afternoon session.)

Do not miss your awards dinner and social time! Registration forms are available on the website.

Kathleen Cripe



***MMGA Membership Meeting
27 January, 2009
Ag Hall***

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Miles at 7:00 PM. He noted that in about 108 days we can plant seeds!

56 members were present.

Jeff Burbrink introduced Ericka Soumare, new Extension Educator.

Carol Swartzendruber introduced the speaker for the evening, Tamra Taylor, Physical Therapist. Her talk, entitled "Tending to Your Body's Garden" had many suggestions on how to keep fit and injury free while gardening. This included Plan and Prepare (stretching exercises), Plant (motivation, strengthening, endurance, pacing), Nurture (paying attention to your body, adequate water, nutrition and rest) and Enjoying the Fruits of Your Labor.

Reports from Committee Chairs were heard. Volunteers needed include:

- Someone to co-chair the Hospitality Center during the Garden Tour.
- Help during the Garden Tour.
- Help during the 2 days prior to the tree sale.
- Help prior to and during the State Convention in September.

Anne Losasso, class of 2008, had brochures advertizing the Spring Seminars.

Questions and Comments on "Ways to Improve Our Club":

- We have a lot of cash on hand. Where does it go?
Answer – income and expenses are usually about even each year. We do give \$2000 scholarship to a Purdue student annually.
- We give scholarships for Purdue students – do we ever get feedback from recipients? Answer – yes, but not recently.
- Mary Morgan takes care of the plants around the Extension office. She wondered whether we could remove a bush that hides a sign. ACTION – Ed Farmwald will dig it up and transplant it in the new outdoor plant room at Prairie View Elementary School in Goshen.
- Thank you to Paul Miles for being President again.
- Will we have this opportunity for questions each month? Answer – yes!.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting - February 24, 2009
Location - Home and Family Arts Building

MG RECIPE BOX

Here is my absolute favorite recipe:

Crumble Pie *(Rhubarb, apple or blueberry or
your choice of any combination)

1 C Flour

1/4 tsp salt

1 Cup Oatmeal, regular

1/2 Cup Sugar

Mix all together

Add 1/3 Cup melted shortening (butter tastes best)

Blend until crumbly. Line a 9" pie pan with 1/2 the
mixture

4 Cup diced rhubarb*

1/4 tsp cinnamon, a sprinkle of nutmeg

1/2 Cup sugar

1 TBSP water

Arrange rhubarb on bottom crust, sprinkle with
sugar, cinnamon & water. Dot with 1 TBSP butter.
Spread remaining crumbly topping over the filling
going around the edges first.

Bake 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until fruit is
bubbly.

I love this pie & have used various combinations of fruits, usually with the rhubarb as the base, & adding a cup of strawberries or blueberries. I have even used all apples & it was great. It goes together quickly. I really like real butter in it & never have added more sugar than the above.

Because of the oatmeal I can rationalize having a piece for breakfast!

Marilyn Horvath



MG RECIPE BOX

AMISH BAKED OATMEAL

1 1/2 Cups quick-cooking oats

1/2 Cup granulated sugar

1/2 Cup milk

1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

1 Egg

1 Teaspoon baking powder

3/4 Teaspoon salt

1 Teaspoon vanilla extract

Warm milk

Fresh fruit and/or brown sugar, optional

Combine the first 8 ingredients, mix well. Spread evenly in a greased 13 x 9 x 2 in. baking pan. Bake at 350 for 25–30 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Immediately spoon into bowls. Add milk. Top with fruit and/or brown sugar if desired. Makes 6 servings.

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Don't like the weather in Elkhart County? Wait a week. Wow, can you believe it? From record snow and cold to expecting thunderstorms this evening! I love snow, but at this point I can't wait to hear a little thunder! It just means we're getting a little closer to spring.

I want to take a minute to thank the following people for submitting their articles to the February Broadcaster:

Judy Baker

Linda Sinon

Sonya Nash

Mary Davis

Kathleen Cripe

Marilyn Horvath

We can't do it without you!

Please send your articles, recipes, meeting times, minutes to: aalskidder@gmail.com or give me a call at 574-848-5153.

Thank you!

Alys Kidder

Michiana Master Gardeners Association
Elkhart County



Mission Statement

The Michiana Master Gardeners Association is a not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to the improvement of the community. Members of the Association have completed the requirements of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program, working in affiliation with the Purdue Extension Service of Elkhart County. Its specific aim is to improve the quality of life in the community by providing information and technical assistance in the area of home horticulture through the use of trained and certified volunteers.

